

Amendments to the claims

1. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments which comprises, in combination, the steps of:
 - establishing an investment fund,
 - creating a security which represents a claim against and is secured by said investment fund, said security entitling its holder to receive, at one or more future maturity dates specified by said security, either a lump sum payment amount or, at the option of said holder, to receive a sequence of annuity payments, the amount and payment date of each of said annuity payments being specified by said security,
 - transferring said security to a purchaser in exchange for a purchase price amount,
 - depositing at least a substantial portion of said purchase price amount into said fund,
 - investing the assets of said fund so that the net asset value of said fund at said maturity date should be adequate to pay to said the holder of said instrument at said maturity date either said lump sum payment amount or an amount adequate to purchase said annuity, and
 - on or after said maturity date, transferring either said lump sum payment amount or said annuity payments to said holder as elected by said holder.

2. (original) A method for producing and distributing investment securities comprising, in combination, the steps of:

- creating a security which comprises a contract in which the issuer of the security promises to pay to the holder of the security a predetermined guaranteed lump sum cash payment at a predetermined maturity date or to pay, in the alternative and at the option of the holder, a sequence of predetermined annuity payments at defined times, and
 - issuing said security to a holder in advance of said maturity date in return for a purchase price payment.

3. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments which comprises, in combination, the steps of:

establishing an investment fund or general account,

creating a written instrument which represents a number of units or shares owned by the holder of said instrument, each of said units or shares constituting a claim against or being secured by said investment fund or general account, said instrument entitling its holder to receive, at a future maturity date specified by said security, either a lump sum payment amount or, in the alternative and at the option of said holder, to future income consisting of a single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals,

transferring the rights conferred by said written instrument to a holder in exchange for a purchase price amount, and

on or about said maturity date, transferring to said holder either said lump sum payment amount or the right to receive said future income as elected by said holder.

4. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments as set forth in claim 3 further comprising the step, performed during an accumulation period after said step of transferring and before said future maturity date, of publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing both the amount of said future income and the stated current monetary value of said units or shares expressed in said specified currency.

5. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 4 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request made during said accumulation period some or all of said units or shares for said stated current monetary value

6. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 3 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

7. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 3 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

8. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 5 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

9. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 5 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

10. (currently amended) A method for issuing and redeeming an investment instrument that entitles its current holder at a maturity date specified in said instrument to receive a specified minimum annuity income after a said maturity date, said method comprising, in combination, the steps of:

issuing an investment said instrument denominated as a number of units or shares each of which entitles the owner said current holder of said instrument to receive a specified monetary unit of a specified currency payable at periodic calendar intervals after said maturity date, paying to said owner current holder of said instrument at said maturity date a minimum lump sum cash payment specified by said instrument or, in the alternative and at the option the said owner current holder, transferring to said owner current holder in exchange for said instrument or said lump sum payment the right to receive for each of said units or shares at least said specified monetary unit of said specified currency payable at said periodic calendar intervals.

11. (previously submitted) A method for issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 10 wherein said specified monetary unit in a specified currency payable at said periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

12. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 10 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request made prior to said maturity date some or all of said units or shares for a stated current monetary value per unit or share periodically published, reported or revealed by the issuer of said instrument.

13. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 11 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request made prior to said maturity date some or all of said units or shares for a stated current monetary value per unit or share periodically published, reported or revealed by the issuer of said instrument.

15. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment instrument denominated as a number of units or shares each of which entitles a holder to receive a specified monetary unit of a specified currency at periodic calendar intervals, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing ~~said product to said~~ investment instrument to a holder in exchange for an initial investment,

after issuing ~~said product~~ investment instrument, periodically publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing to ~~said~~ the current holder of said investment instrument the stated current monetary value of said units or shares,

on or about at a specified future maturity date, paying a lump sum monetary payment to ~~said~~ the current holder of said investment instrument at said maturity date which will provide a specified guaranteeable minimum rate of return on said initial investment during the accumulation period preceding said maturity date, and

at the option of said holder exercised on or about said maturity date, converting all or part of said ~~product~~ investment instrument or said lump sum monetary payment into the right to receive a guaranteeable annuity income consisting of at least said specified monetary unit of said specified currency for each of said units or shares payable at each of said periodic calendar intervals.

16. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment product instrument as set forth in claim 15 further comprising the step of redeeming said investment product instrument at the request of said the current holder of said investment instrument during said accumulation period by purchasing from said holder all or part of said units or shares prior to said maturity date for an amount substantially equal to said stated current monetary value of said units or shares.

17. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing investment an instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 15 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

18. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 15 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

19. (currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment product that allows its holder to own a liquid investment asset and to know with reasonable certainty both the asset's minimum value at a future maturity date specified by said investment product and to know the minimum annuity income that the asset can provide after said maturity date, said method including the steps of:

denominating said product as a number of units or shares each of which provide a minimum annuity income that said holder will have the right to receive each month after said maturity date, said minimum annuity income being expressed as a single monetary unit of a specified currency,

periodically publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing to said holder the stated current monetary value of said units or shares,

upon demand made by said holder made prior to said maturity date, exchanging all or part of said units or shares for a redemption value substantially equal to said stated current monetary value,

paying to said holder at said maturity date at least a specified minimum guaranteeable lump sum payment amount, and

converting, upon demand by said holder on or about said maturity date, all or part of said specified lump sum payment amount into an annuity which entitles the holder to receive said minimum annuity income for each of said units or shares,

20. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing an investment product as set forth in claim 19 wherein annuity provides said annuity income during the life said holder or the lives of said holder and a survivor, said product further specifies adjustments to the amount to be paid monthly based on the age of the holder or the age of the holder's survivor at the time all or part of said specified lump sum payment is converted to said annuity.

21. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing and investment product as set forth in claim 19 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

22. (previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing an investment product as set forth in claim 21 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.